

Call to Action Workgroup Definitions

I. *Building family income, assets and supports: Wisconsin families have access to resources to grow income; those who are unable to work are able to access key benefits and supports.*

- More Wisconsin families secure income beyond employment earnings through: saving more employment earnings, Individual Development Accounts, investments, securing material assets such as cars, or other resources that help meet family needs.
- More Wisconsin families are equipped with skills to better manage family finances, credit and bill management, e.g., financial literacy training
- Wisconsin families better utilize benefits they are eligible for including EITC, and Energy Assistance, FoodShare, BadgerCare Plus
- Eligible individuals have access to Unemployment Insurance
- Eligible individuals have access to Social Security Insurance

II. *Early childhood and K-12 Education: Wisconsin children have access to education birth through adolescence that prepares them for future success.*

Birth to Five

- The quality of early care and education programs is improved in Wisconsin.
- Early childhood teachers are better educated
- More early childhood programs offer curriculum consistent with the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards
- Children are better prepared to enter kindergarten
- Parents have access to information about the quality of early care and education settings and utilize information for selecting quality programs
- K-12 Education –
 - Improved third grade reading scores
 - Reduction in the educational achievement gap,
 - High school graduation rates are improved.
 - Curriculum is better designed in high schools to reflect school to work education and youth apprenticeship
 - Curriculum is designed to align with Service Learning

III. *Adult Education and Employment: Wisconsin adults are prepared for the employment opportunities of today and tomorrow.*

- a. Increased number of individuals prepared for work as evidenced by:
 - i. Increased number of people completing General Equivalency Degrees or high school equivalency degree
 - ii. Increased number of people completing 2 year programs that will lead them to middle-skill jobs that are predicted to grow
- b. Job seekers are better prepared for finding and retaining work through improved “soft skills” – skills that will assist individuals to maintain work once employed.
- c. More targeted efforts are instituted including targeted educational opportunities that prepare job seekers for high job growth sectors of the economy.
- d. More targeted efforts are instituted to prepare adults for jobs that pay family supporting wages.
- e. Once employed, Wisconsin job seekers have improved access to services that help them maintain employment and advance on a career ladder, including WIA services, Job Centers, Technical Colleges, and supports tied directly to keeping employment and advancing in the workplace.

IV. *Family Support: Wisconsin children grow up in strong and supportive families*

- a. Parents improve their abilities to better support their children through increased access to parental education and support

- b. More fathers (custodial and non-custodial parents) are meaningfully engaged in their child's life
- c. Families will have improved access to comprehensive home visiting programs and services identified that are identified through HV programs.
- d. Families have access to comprehensive support to meet multiple family needs such as Community Action Agencies, Family Resource Centers, neighborhood centers, recreational resources for youth and informal support networks.

V. *Housing: Wisconsin families are able to secure affordable housing*

- Wisconsin families who are eligible will have better access to resources that will make housing more affordable including the following resources:
 - Rental Assistance
 - Weatherization,
 - Eviction prevention programs
 - Programs that support affordable home ownership opportunities
- Shelter housing will be available for families in crisis

VI. *Job Creation: Work opportunities are available for Wisconsin adults*

- More jobs are created through tapping into entrepreneurial opportunities, micro-lending, and small business development,
- More individuals secure work and work-based training through Transitional jobs through W-2 program and supported employment opportunities.
- Individuals are trained for and identified for jobs being created as part of stimulus package – weatherization, transportation, road and construction, water and wastewater treatment jobs.
- Efforts must be made to create jobs that pay family supporting wages